THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK) : (a) The functions of the Department of Tourism are promotional, developmental and regulatory in nature with the objective of giving a boost to both domestic and international tourism.

(b) The Indian Tourism Development Corporation is the only public sector unit attached to the Ministry of Tourism. While I.T.D.C. is essentially a commercial undertaking, it also plays a pioneering role in promoting new/hitherto unknown tourist destinations in the country. The Department of Tourism's role is to help in building a sound infrastructure for promotion of tourism, widely pubilcise the same and help in marketing the tourism product both in India and overseas.

(c) The total expenditure for the period mentioned in (b) above is approximately Rs. 154.95 crores.

Indian Travellers Avoiding Air India Flights

657. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news items which appeared in Indian Express (Business Express) of the March 31, 1992 captioned "Aviation Notes" ;

(b) if so, how many passengers were bumped off from Indian flights in 1992 due to requisition of wide-bodies jets of Air India till date ;

(c) whether it is a fact that even ethnic Indian travellers are avoiding Air India due to such sudden unavailability and cancellation of flights ; and

(d) whether the Tata Committee referred to this problem in its report ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Only one aircraft is withdrawn for VVIP flights. Advance action is taken to rebook/reprotect passengers on cancelled flights, if any, on first available flights of Air India and its pool partners. During the year 1992, three flights were cancelled and no passengers were bumped off.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Privatisation of Indian Airlines, Air India and Vayudoot

658. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) wheter there is any proposal under Government's consideration to privatise Indian Airlines, Air India and Vayudoot services ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Presently, there is no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

Recovery of Outstanding Dues by IA

659. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special drive has been launched by Indian Airlines to take the airline out of the red especially to meet the losses incurred by enblock grounding of airbus A-320 aircrafts by recovering of outstanding dues and otherwise; and

(b) if so, the details of such steps taken during the year 1991-92 and the outcome thereof indicating the overall profit/loss for 1991-92 and comparative figures for 1990-91 and 1989-90 ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of the vigorous efforts being made by the Indian Airlines to recover all the